

INCOMING TELEGRAM

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AIR

FROM: BERLIN

TO: Secretary of State

NO: 667, FEBRUARY 5, 6 P.M.

PRIORITY.

SENT DEPARTMENT 667, BONN 597, REPEATED INFORMATION PRIORITY  
PARIS 154, MOSCOW 203, LONDON 122, POLAD USAREUR PRIORITY 202.

PARIS FOR EMB, USRO, CINCEUR THURSTON AND WEST.

REF OURTEL 591 TO BONN, 661 TO DEPT.

FOLLOWING IS ACCOUNT USPOLAD MEETING WITH SOV POLAD MARKUSHIN  
AT MARIENBORN YESTERDAY:

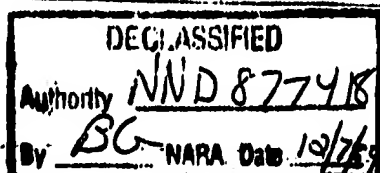
PRESENT WERE LTCOL MARKUSHIN, SOV CO MARIENBORN CHECKPOINT  
COL SAFRONOV, SOV INTERPRETER, BURNS, LTCOL SALISBURY  
AND US INTERPRETER. MEETING, HELD SOV CHECKPOINT OFFICE,  
COMMENCED PROMPTLY AT 4:30 PM AND LAST TWO AND A HALF HOURS.  
THE 4 DETAINED US ARMY TRUCKS WERE PARKED ON AUTOBAHN DIRECTLY  
OUTSIDE SOV CHECKPOINT OFFICE. SINCE CENTER AUTOBAHN STRIP  
NARROW AT THIS POINT, TRUCKS OCCUPIED ENOUGH OF ROADWAY TO FORCE  
TRAFFIC INTO ONE LANE PAST THEM. FROM GROUND TO TOP OF CLOSED  
TAILGATE ABOUT 8 FEET; REAR OF TRUCKS OPEN FROM TOP OF TAILGATE  
TO ROOF AND UPPER PART OF JEEPS CARRIED AS CARGO CLEARLY VISIBLE.

FIRST 45 MINUTES OF CONFERENCE CONSISTED OF ADAMANT SOV DEMANDS  
TO INSPECT VEHICLES, SPECIFICALLY THAT TAILGATES BE LOWERED.  
SOV POLAD INDICATED THAT (CURRENT) SOV INSPECTION PROCEDURE  
IS: (1) INTERIOR OF TRUCKS FROM BED TO ROOF BE VISIBLE OR MADE  
VISIBLE; (2) SOVS WILL NOT ENTER VEHICLES; (3) INSPECTION  
DEMAND WOULD CONTINUE AS IN PAST ON SPOT BASIS. SAFRONOV STATED  
HE COULD NOT UNDERSTAND WHY THIS CONVOY REJECTED INSPECTION SINCE,  
WITH RARE EXCEPTIONS, ALL OTHER AMERICAN MILITARY VEHICLES HAD

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"WILLINGLY SUBMITTED SINCE THE INSTITUTION OF SOV INSPECTION PROCEDURES." (USPOLAD INDICATED THAT OUR INFORMATION WAS DIRECTLY CONTRARY TO SAFRONOV'S). MARKUSHIN SAID AT ONE POINT: "IF YOU AMERICANS PERSIST IN YOUR PRINCIPLES THE CIRCULATION OF YOUR TRUCKS ON THE AUTOBAHN WILL HAVE TO BE DISCONTINUED."

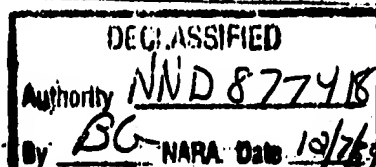
WHEN AT END OF FIRST 45 MINUTES USPOLAD INDICATED THAT CONFERENCE GETTING NOWHERE AND CONFEREES MIGHT AS WELL GO HOME, MARKUSHIN AGREED THAT NO PROGRESS MADE TOWARD SETTling INSPECTION ISSUE BUT NONETHELESS CONFEREES SHOULD TRY A LITTLE LONGER TO SETTLE SPECIFIC PROBLEM OF 4 TRUCKS OUTSIDE.

USPOLAD REITERATED HIS STATEMENT MADE AT KARLSHORST DAY PREVIOUS THAT CONVOY MANIFEST HAD BEEN SIGNED BY GEN HAMLETT, SOHHAT BESIDES BEING ILLEGAL SOV INSPECTION DEMAND CONSTITUTED AFFRONT TO GEN HAMLETT'S HONOR BECAUSE GEN'S VERACITY THEREBY QUESTIONED. JEEPS WERE CLEARLY VISIBLE AND MARKUSHIN HAD SEEN THEM WITH HIS OWN EYES. IF IT WOULD MAKE MARKUSHIN FEEL BETTER USPOLAD WILLING PERSONALLY TO EXAMINE JEEPS AND CONFIRM TO MARKUSHIN THAT WITHOUT SHADOW OF DOUBT TRUCKS CARRIED JEEPS.

DURING NEXT HOUR AND FORTY-FIVE MINUTES, SOVS CLIMBED DOWN STEP BY STEP FROM THEIR ORIGINAL INSPECTION DEMAND UNTIL THEY FINALLY AGREED TO ACCEPT USPOLAD'S SUGGESTION. FOLLOWING IS SEQUENCES OF THEIR COUNTERPROPOSALS:

- (1) TAILGATES BE LOWERED BUT THAT ORDER BE GIVEN BY COL SAFRONOV INSTEAD OF BY SOV SOLDIER;
- (2) TAILGATES BE LOWERED WITH ORDER GIVEN BY USPOLAD;
- (3) TAILGATE OF JUST ONE TRUCK BE LOWERED; REMAINING THREE TRUCKS WOULD NOT RPT NOT HAVE TO LOWER TAILGATES;

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(4) COL SAFRONOV HELP USPOLAD EXAMINE JEEPS;

(5) SAME AS (4) EXCEPT THAT COL MARKUSHIN BE SUBSTITUTED FOR SAFRONOV;

(6) COL SAFRONOV WOULD DEMONSTRATE FOR USPOLAD ON ONE OF DETAINED US VEHICLES HOW SAFRONOV EXECUTES AN INSPECTION "TO WHICH UP UNTIL NOW YOUR DRIVERS HAVE NEVER OBJECTED;"

(7) WHEN USPOLAD EXAMINED JEEPS, TAILGATES BE LOWERED TO MAKE IT EASIER FOR HIM;

(8) USPOLAD'S ORIGINAL SUGGESTION FINALLY ACCEPTED ON BASIS OF GREAT PERSONAL FAVOR TO USPOLAD.

CONFERENCE CONCLUDED AT 7 PM AND CONFEREES PROCEEDED OUTDOORS TO THE 4 TRUCKS. USPOLAD STEPPED ONTO TAILBOARD OF FIRST TRUCK, DROPPED BACK DOWN AGAIN, TURNED TO MARKUSHIN AND SAID: "AS PREVIOUSLY STATED, THE VEHICLE CONTAINS A JEEP." MARKUSHIN REPLIED: "IT IS COLD. I WILL NOT DETAIN YOU FURTHER. I WILL GIVE THE NECESSARY ORDER THAT ALL 4 TRUCKS MAY PROCEED FORWARD."

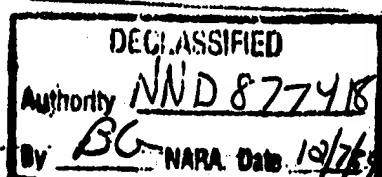
HE ADDED: "YOU AND I ARE NOT RPT NOT ABLE TO SETTLE THE ISSUES INVOLVED. IT MUST BE TAKEN TO A HIGHER LEVEL. MR BURNS, THIS INCIDENT HAS BEEN SETTLED AS A PERSONAL FAVOR TO YOU AND BY MY ACCEPTANCE OF YOUR WORD. YOU SHOULD KNOW, HOWEVER, THAT WE ARE GOING TO CONTINUE IN FUTURE TO ADHERE EXACTLY TO OUR INSPECTION PROCEDURES IN RESPECT TO YOUR VEHICLES."

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